



LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

San Mateo • Santa Clara • San Benito Counties

Mayor Ron Gonzales
Coyote Valley Specific Plan Task Force Members
801 North First Street, Rm. 600
San Jose, CA 95110

December 13, 2004

Mayor Gonzales and Task Force Members,

On the behalf of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, I want to thank you for beginning to address concerns raised by the environmental community about the proposed development and future of the greenbelt area. While the Sierra Club remains opposed to development we are hopeful that planning can truly be environmentally sensitive and an exceptional example of smart growth principles.

While planning for the areas to be developed has been ongoing for over two years, environmental concerns and greenbelt issues have just been acknowledged this fall. The greenbelt deserves the same level of detailed attention as that for roads, neighborhoods, flood control and other aspects of proposed for North and Mid Coyote Valley. Greater attention to the greenbelt is necessary to ensure that its agricultural and open space values are secured for the benefits of Coyote Valley and Santa Clara County residents.

As you and the Task Force continue developing the specific plan for Coyote Valley it is imperative to link development in the north and mid valley areas to plans to protect and enhance the greenbelt in the south. I respectfully request you to consider the following as plan requirements:

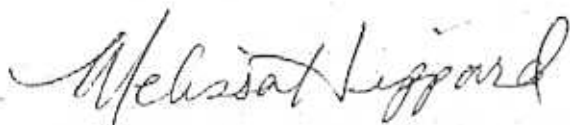
- Mitigation of significant environmental effects. A mitigation ratio would be appropriate (as Gilroy has recently done), and one idea might be 1:1 in the Valley and 3:1 if outside the Valley.
- Funding sources for mitigation. The Specific Plan should include identified funding sources and a mechanism for ensuring that the above suggested criteria are met.
- Funding proposals must go through a public review and comment period.

Finally, I request that an environmental alternative be included in the environmental review process. This alternative could be based on Greenbelt Alliance's "Getting it Right" vision plan with additional wildlife habitat issues incorporated. The value of such an action would be to demonstrate the commitment on the part of the Task Force and the

City of San Jose to create a vibrant, ecologically sensitive and livable community that provides a model for development in California and the rest of the country.

Again, I want to express my appreciation for positive steps already taken - promises that no new lots will be allowed in the greenbelt, the expansion of Fisher Creek and rigorous enforcement of groundwater protection. I am encouraged by staff and Task Force efforts to integrate our concerns into the planning process. However, I remain unconvinced that there is sufficient time in your present schedule to adequately resolve these issues. It is unlikely that an adequate environmental review of a project the scale of that proposed for Coyote Valley can be completed in less than a year. Please seriously consider how important it is to "get it right."

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and requests,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melissa Hippard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Melissa Hippard, Chapter Director

CC: Linda Lezotte
Cindy Chavez
Chuck Reed
Nora Campos
Ken Yeager
Terry Gregory
David D. Cortese
Judy Chirco
Pat Dando